

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of: Bruno LANGLOIS

Continuation of Serial Number: 09/462,995

Examiner : N/A

Filing date: January 14, 2000

Group Art Unit: N/A

Serial Number: To be assigned

Filing date: To be assigned

For: FLUIDS FOR USE IN OILFIELD DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING  
DEACETYLATED XANTHAN GUM AND AT LEAST ONE COMPOUND  
INCREASING THE IONIC STRENGTH OF THE MEDIUM

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of filing fee, please enter the following amendment :

In the Specification:

On page 1, just after the title, please add the new following paragraph:

This application is a continuation application of Application Number 09/462,995  
filed on January 14, 2000.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 to 21 and replace them with the following new claims 22 to 37:

22. (New) A process for oil extraction comprising the step of using, at a temperature  
between 100 and 140°C, a guar-free drilling fluid comprising a xanthan gum having a  
percentage of acetyl groups in the range 0 to 3%, said xanthan gum being in the form

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